Table 1. Honors Thesis Timeline (by task)

Tasks	How long to work on it	When to complete
1. **Establish your question(s)**	Start in spring or summer	September
2. **Literature search**	2 – 6 months; start as soon as you know the general area you'll be working in, even b4 you've identified your specific question(s)	October (but continue to read the literature – you will use it when revising the Intro & writing the Discussion)
3. **Literature summary/review/outline** (make list of papers read, but not reviewed, for future reference)	Some students keep an Excel spread sheet for this purpose	October - November
4. **Formulate hypotheses**		October - November
5. **Generate/modify/finalize methods**		October - November
6. **Write, submit IRB**		November
7. **Outline/bullet points for introduction** • Aim/purpose of the research; main question(s) • Why is the question/purpose important, interesting • What's been done before to contextualize, justify this study & the specific hypotheses • What's new: How will this study add to/extend/clarify/improve existing understanding & research • Hypotheses	This can be started b4 the lit search is completed – it can help identify areas that need additional literature searching or review. Previous Honors students all say that outlines help even if you don't typically do them. It's worth doing this for yourself even if you don't show it to your advisor.	November
8. **Draft introduction**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	November
9. **Pilot procedures**	Depends on your lab & study	December
10. **Draft method**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	November - December
11. **Draft analysis plan**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	December
12. **Complete thesis proposal**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	December
13. **Train data collectors/coders**	Depends on your lab & study	December
14. **Collect/code data**	Depends on your lab & study	January - February
15. **Enter, clean data**	Enter data as you collect/code if possible	February
16. **Analyze data**	Be sure you know who you can consult for stats help b4 you start	March
17. **Draft results**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	March
18. **Outline, draft discussion**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	March
19. **Complete thesis**	Leave time for multiple drafts & revision	April
20. **Prepare & practice presentation**		April

Table 2. Honors Thesis Timeline (by month)

Month	Tasks to be working on	Tasks to complete
September	- Establish question(s) - Literature search - Literature summary/review/outline - Formulate hypotheses - Pilot procedures - Generate/modify/finalize methods - Train data collectors/coders - IRB - Collect/code data	- Establish question(s)
October	- Literature search - Literature summary/review/outline - Formulate hypotheses - Generate/modify/finalize methods - Pilot procedures - Train data collectors/coders - IRB proposal - Collect/code data - Draft Introduction	- Literature search - Literature summary/review/outline - Formulate hypotheses - Generate/modify/finalize methods
November	- Pilot procedures - Train data collectors/coders - IRB proposal - Collect/code data - Draft Introduction - Draft Method	- Submit IRB proposal - Draft Introduction - Draft Method
December	- Pilot procedures - Train data collectors/coders - Collect/code data - Draft analysis plan - Complete thesis proposal	- Pilot procedures - Train data collectors/coders - Thesis proposal & defense
January	- Collect/code data - Enter, clean data - Analyze data	
February	- Enter, clean data - Analyze data - Draft results - Outline, draft discussion	- Collect/code data - Enter, clean data
March	- Analyze data - Draft results - Outline, draft discussion - Complete thesis - Prepare presentation	- Analyze data - Draft results - Outline, draft discussion
April	- Complete thesis - Prepare & practice presentation	- Complete thesis - Prepare & practice presentation - DEFEND THESIS!

Table 3. Personal timeline worksheet (organize this however it works best for you)